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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9620
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 USUN 0558

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, PORG
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, FEB 15

REF: USUN 431
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1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MET IN UNOFFICIAL SESSION FEB 15. ALTHOUGH TONE WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND COOPERATIVE, TWO SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AROSE: SHOULD COMMITTEE HOLD SPECIAL SESSIONS TO DEAL WITH "CRISIS" USSUES AND,IF SO, WOULD THE BUREAU BE EMPOWERED TO CALL SUCH MEETINGS. OECD REPRESENTATIVES RAISED CONCERNS ON BOTH POINTS. CONSENSUS EMERGING ON TWO OR THREE MEETINGS IN 1978 WITH FIRST IN APRIL OR MAY. US TABLED ITS INDICATIVE LIST OF ISSUES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AS A CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER. END SUMMARY.

2. UN OFFICIAL MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF WHOLE WED MORNING REVIEWED FIVE ORGANIZATIONAL TOPICS PROPOSED BY CHAIRMAN: 1) MISSION OF COMMITTEE; 2) CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, INCLUDING QUESTION OF SPECIAL SESSIONS FOR CRISES ISSUES; 3) ROLE OF BUREAU; 4) REPORT COVERING CURRENT SESSIONS; 5) THEMES OF MEETINGS. TONE OF DISCUSSION WAS POSITIVE AND NON-CONFRONTATIONAL. G-77 LIST OF PROPOSALS FOR WORK PROGRAM OF COMMITTEE CIRCULATED AS CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER. UN OFFICIAL MEETING OF COMMITTEE WILL RESUME THURSDAY AFTTERNOON, WITH FORMAL SESSION SET FOR FRIDAY. INTERVENING TIME SET ASIDE

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FOR REGIONAL GROUP MEETINGS AND CONTACT GROUPS BETWEEN
REGIONAL GROUPS. OECD COUNTRIES MET WED AFTERNOON IN SO-
CALLED VINCI GROUP. (WEO GROUP CAN DISCUSS ONLY PROCEDURAL
MATTERS. THEREFORE, SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES MUST BE DISCUSSED
IN A GROUP OF A DIFFERENT NAME, ALTHOUGH MEMBERSHIPS ARE
VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL.)

3. MISSION OF COMMITTEE: GROUP SUPPORTED CHAIRMAN DJAZAIRI'S
SUGGESTION OF TWO-PRONGED MISSION FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:
TO DEAL WITH AGREED SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND TO TAKE UP OTHER
TIMELY OR "CRISIS" TOPICS. OECD SPEAKERS (INCLUDING DENMARK
FOR EC-9, CANADA, NORWAY AND SWEDEN) STRESSED NON-INTERFERENCES
WITH WORK OF OTHER FORA. THEY ACCEPTED THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY
IN WORK PROGRAM, BUT CRITICIZED THE CONCEPT OF CRISIS MEETINGS,
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RAISING QUESTIONS OF DEFINITION OF CRISIS TOPICS AND
PROCEDURES FOR CALLING MEETINGS, G-77 THROUGH JAMAICAN
(MILLS) TOOK MODERATE LINE, AGREEING THAT THE COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE SHOULD AVOID ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD INHIBIT OTHER
ONGOING WORK, ALTHOUGH CLEARLY CONTEMPLATING PLACING SUCH

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MATTERS BEFORE COMMITTEE IF NEGOTIATIONS ELSEWHERE
UNRAVEL. JAMAICAN SAW NEED FOR RESTRAINED BALANCE
BETWEEN GENERAL AND SPECIFIC ISSUES IN COMMITTEE AGENDA.
4. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: CONSENSUS IS EMERGING ON TWO
OR THREE MEETINGS DURING COMING YEAR. PERUVIAN SUGGESTED
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FIRST SUSBSTNTIVE MEETING AS EALRY AS APRIL, BUT OECD
GROUP WILL TAKE VIEW THAT NEED FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS
ARGUES FIRST MEETING BE HELD OFF UNTIL MAY. SECOND MEETING
COULD OCCUR DURING SUMMER. A THIRD MEETING AT TIME OF UNGA,
WHICH MIGHT PERMIT MINISTERIAL SESSION OF COMMITTEE, IS
BEING FLOATED. G-77 ARE SUGGESTING MEETINGS OF AS LONG AS
THREE WEEKS, BUT OECD COUNTRIES ARE EMPHASIZING CONTRADICTION
BETWEEN SUCH EXTENDED SESSIONS AND DESIRED PARTICIPATION
OF DECISION-MAKERS FROM CAPITALS. OECD WILL ARGUE FOR
MAXIMUM OF ONE WEEK SESSIONS, WITH POSSIBLE FORMAT OF TWO
DAYS OF PREPARATORY MEETINGS BY EXPERTS FOLLOWED BY THREE
DAYS OF PLENARY SESSION WITH HIGH LEVEL DELS. G-77 ENVISAGE
SPECIAL SESSIONS WHEN CHAIRMAN'S SOUNDINGS INDICATE INTEREST,
OR IF SUPPORTED BY CONSULTATIONS BY CHAIRMAN FOLLOWING SPECIFIC
REQUEST OF A MEMBER. OECD COUNTRIES WILL URGE THAT A
SCHEDULE OF TWO OR THREE MEETINGS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
NEEDED PREPARATION TIME, WILL PROVIDE AMPLE FRAMEWORK FOR
BRINING UP DURING COURSE OF YEAR OTHER MATTERS NOT ON FIXED
AGENDAS FOR MEETINGS.
5. ROLE OF BUREAU: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGREED BUREAU
WOULD NOT BE STEERING COMMITTEE, AND CHAIRMAN SUMMARIZED
ITS FUNCTIONS AS A CHANNEL FOR CIRCULATING MEMBER COMMENTS
AND A MECHANISM FOR SETTING DATES OF MEETINGS NOT FIXED BY
THE COMMITTEE. JAMAICAN, HOWEVER, RAISED POSSIBILITY OF
PRE-AND INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND PREPARATIONS
THROUGH BOARD AND INFORMAL CONTACT GROUPS.
6. REPORT: RAPPORTEUR HAS SUGGESTED, AND GROUP HAS
CONCURRED IN, PREPARATION OF BRIEF, FACTUAL REPORT OF MEETING
WHICH SHOULD NOT REQUIRE EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATION ON FRIDAY.
7. THEMES FOR MEETINGS: G-77 CIRCULATED AS CONFERENCE ROOM
PAPER LISTS OF PROPOSALS FOR COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM. LISTS
CONSIST OF ANNEX I, 18 ISSUES "TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE" (SAME ISSUES AS REFTEL), AND
ANNEX II, NINE ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE THIS

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YEAR (SAME AS ISSUES DESIGNATED REFTEL WITH ADDITION OF
ITEM 10, PROTECTIONIST MEASURES BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
AGAINST THE EXPORTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES). JAMAICAN
SPOKESMAN EMPHASZIED LISTING WAS INDICATIVE OF MATTERS
WHICH MIGHT COME BEFORE COMMITTEE IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES,
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AND WAS NOT RIGID POSITION.
OECD COUNTRIES SEEM AGREED ON DESIRABILITY OF BROADER
TOPICS OF DISCUSSION, BUT IT WAS UNCLEAR AT VINCI MEETING
WHETHER OTHER LISTS, PARTICULARLY STALLED EC-9 TEXT,
WOULD BE CIRCULATED, US DEL THEREFORE HAS SUBMITTED
INDICATIVE LIST WHICH FOLLOWS AS PARA 8.
8. BEGIN TEXT: INDICATIVE LIST OF ISSUES OF POSSIBLE
INTEREST TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
-. PRINCIPAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF THE
WORLD ECONOMY AND PARTICULARLY THAT OF THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
1. CONSTRAINTS ON GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT, AND CAUSES
OF INFLATION;
2. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GROWTH IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND
GROWTH IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;
3. INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ECONOMIC EQUITY;
B. SECTORAL ISSUES
4. COMMODITIES;
5. FOOD;
6. ENERGY;
7. INDUSTRIALIZATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE;
C. CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES
8. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE;
9. TRADE;

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10. FINANCIAL ISSUES;
11. INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. END TEXT
9. COMMENT: WE ARE CONCERNED THAT, IF THE BUREAU IS EMPOWERED TO CALL SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER CRISIS ISSUES, TI WOULD ENCOURAGE SHIFTING TO THE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH MAY BECOME STALLED IN OTHER FORA. IT ALSO COULD LEAD TO A LARGE NUMBER OF ILL-PREPARED MEETINGS. WEO COUNTRIES AND SOME LDC'S SHARE THESE CONCERNS. WE WILL SEEK TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ONLY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CAN SCHEDULE MEETINGS.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Review Release Date: n/a
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